6. Subsidence study at SOCP hill top colony in Ib-valley areas (Ist Phase).

7. Extraction design to prevent surface subsidence at Hingir Rampur Mine, Orient Area.

8. Vibration study due to solid blasting in Mine No. 3, Orient Area.

9. Blast optimisation and Ground vibration study at Lakhanpur OCP.

Contract Workers in MCL

313. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of contract workers working in Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd. for cutting and lifting all overburden, transport and other work; and

(b) whether Government are aware that they are not covered under any social security scheme and also not getting the minimum wages and other statutory benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) As reported by Coal India Limited, the total number of contract workers working in the Mahanadi Coalfields Limited for cutting and lifting all overburden, transport and other works are as follows:—

1.	Cutting and lifting all overburden	—	Nil
2.	Transport	—	2,834
3.	Other works	—	2,345
	Total	—	5,179

(b) The contract workers are covered under social security scheme as applicable and they get minimum wages and other statutory benefits as admissible. However, they do not get such benefits at par with permanent workers.

Transfer of CCL mines

†314. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision was taken by Government to transfer seven coal mines of the Central Coalfields Limited to the Bihar State Mineral Development Corporation;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what action has been taken so far by Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Coal had intimated to the Government of Bihar that Coal India Limited have no objection to the following nine mines/patches in the command area of Central Coalfields Limited being leased out of Bihar State Mineral Development Corporation (BSMDC), an undertaking of Government of Bihar:—

(i) Jagaldaga
(ii) Jainti Central
(iii) Jainti Khas
(iv) Jainti Jain
(v) Villards
(vi) Villards (P) Ltd I
(vii) Villards (P) Ltd II
(viii) Belgara
(ix) Sedampur

The lease of Jagaldaga mine has been surrendered to Government of Bihar on 17.6.99 whereas the leases of Jainti Central and Jainti Khas mines were surrendered on 26.6.2000. Prior approval of the Central Government of grant of mining lease under Section 5(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 has been conveyed in respect of Villards mine also. Necessary action as per the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 in respect of the remaining mines/patches is yet to be taken by the BSMDC.

(c) Does not arise in view of the answer of part (b) of the question.

Accident in Coal Mines

315. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents which took place in various coal mines in the country during the last three years, coal mine-wise;